

CHAPTER NO. 212

SENATE BILL NO. 304

By Dixon, Crowe, Burks, Herron

Substituted for: House Bill No. 704

By Cooper, Towns, Ulysses Jones, Armstrong, Lois DeBerry, Shaw, Larry Turner,
Bowers, Brooks, Chumney, Garrett, Pruitt, Sherry Jones, Miller, McDonald, Langster,
Patton, Brenda Turner

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 50, relative to health screening of children.

WHEREAS, Requiring vision screening for children before entry into kindergarten, preschool, nursery school or child care would increase the opportunities to diagnose vision disease and injury and permit early treatment; and

WHEREAS, Use of vision screening at the time a child begins the third grade provides the optimal opportunity to diagnose and treat myopia ("nearsightedness"); and

WHEREAS, Providing early preventive vision care for children increases their overall health, productiveness, and potential as good citizens, and is thus also cost effective for the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:


SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 50, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section 49-6-5004. (a) Upon registration or as early as is otherwise possible and appropriate, public schools, nursery schools, kindergartens, preschools or child care facilities are encouraged to make reasonable efforts to apprise parents of the health benefits of obtaining appropriate eye and dental care for children.

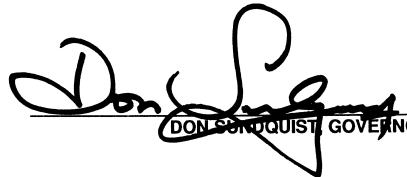
SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 10, 2001


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 15th day of May 2001


DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR